

## Bonn politician berates Peres

BONN (R) — Hans-Juergen Wischnewski, a West German foreign policy veteran and Middle East troubleshooter, protested strongly to Israel on Tuesday about the plight of Palestinians living under Israeli occupation. "The events on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip fill me not only with worry and dismay but also with anger," said Mr. Wischnewski, in a letter to Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres published in Bonn. "As a friend of the Israeli Labour Party I can no longer keep silent about the way in which Palestinians are being treated by military and civil authorities." Mr. Wischnewski, a senior member of the opposition Social Democrats, said he wanted to appeal to Mr. Peres in his capacity as chairman of the Socialist International's Middle East Committee. "I call upon you to establish inside the Israeli government that the Palestinian people's justified demands for a right to self-determination are answered politically and not militarily," Mr. Wischnewski added. In the 1970s Mr. Wischnewski was entrusted by then-Chancellor Helmut Schmidt with a number of delicate diplomatic missions.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأي



## India gets nuclear submarine

NEW DELHI (R) — The Soviet Union handed over a nuclear-powered submarine to India on Tuesday in a lease agreement that could affect the maritime balance of power in South Asia, the official All India Radio said. The radio said the submarine was turned over to T.N. Kaul, Indian ambassador to Moscow, at the Soviet Far Eastern port of Vladivostok. The vessel was expected to sail for India within the next few days, the radio said. India thus became only the second Asian nation after China with nuclear-powered warships in its fleet. The new submarine, and other recent acquisitions, would allow India to project its naval influence far into the strategic Indian Ocean. In New Delhi, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman declined any comment on the transfer which has been the subject of speculation in the Indian press over the past few months. Indian state television said the submarine was handed over to India for training purposes only and carried no nuclear weapons. The broadcasts did not specify what type of vessel was turned over to India.

Volume 13 Number 3672

AMMAN, WEDNESDAY JANUARY 6, 1988, JAMADA AL AWWAL 16, 1408

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

## Genscher to visit Damascus

DAMASCUS (R) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher is expected to visit Syria later this month, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said on Tuesday. SANA said Mr. Genscher was scheduled to arrive in Damascus on Jan. 14.

## Iran extends draft

NICOSIA (AP) — Compulsory military service in Iran has been increased from two years to 28 months, Tehran Radio reported Tuesday.

## Ershad due in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — President Hussain Muhammad Ershad of Bangladesh is to visit Iraq later this week, Iraqi and Bangladeshi sources said Tuesday. General Ershad's official visit is to start on Thursday and will last 12 hours, they said. After the visit, he will leave for Saudi Arabia, said the sources.

## Rabbi gets bomb

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli parliamentarian Rabbi Menachem Porush received a booby-trapped singing Christmas card on Tuesday but it was defused safely, a police spokesman said. The card-bomb was the 11th to arrive in the last week carrying the same Istanbul return address with the name "Mr. D. Nissim." Two Israelis were injured when opening one of the cards.

## Qadhafi, Hissene invited to talks

DAKAR (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and Chad President Hissene Habre have been invited to take part in a session — due to open here Feb. 7 — of a high-level African committee formed to settle their border conflict, official sources reported Tuesday. If they accept an invitation from Omar Bongo, president of Gabon, it would provide the first opportunity in years for a direct meeting between the two bitter rivals involved in the protracted Chad war.

## Debts may be clue to Paris murder

PARIS (R) — Detectives probing Monday's shooting of a West German diplomat in central Paris believe he was murdered for private, possibly financial, motives but do not rule out a political angle, police sources said on Tuesday. The sources said the victim, Siegfried Wielspeut, appeared to have spent heavily during his 18 months in Paris, piling up heavy debts.

## U.S. Senate begins INF debate Jan. 25

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State George Shultz will be the first witness at Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings on the intermediate nuclear forces (INF) treaty, panel chairman Claiborne Pell said on Tuesday.

## Jordan requests urgent U.N. meeting

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Jordan, as current chairman of the Arab group, on Tuesday requested an immediate meeting of the Security Council on the situation in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A U.N. source quoted by Reuters said the council was likely to meet on Wednesday. The council adopted a resolution on Dec. 22 strongly deploring Israeli practices and policies which violated the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, the scene of violent anti-occupation demonstrations for the past month in which at least 26 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli troops.

The resolution, approved by 14 of the council's 15 members, with the United States abstaining, referred particularly to gunfire by the Israeli army "resulting in the killing and wounding of defenceless Palestinian civilians."

The resolution requested Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to report back by Jan. 20 with recommendations "on ways and means for ensuring the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians" under Israeli occupation.

## OIC begins talks

Meanwhile King Hassan of Morocco chaired a special conference of the 15-member Jerusalem Committee of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to discuss the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

OIC Secretary-General Sharifuddin Pirzadeh called on international organisations to exert pressure on Israel to pull out of the occupied Arab territories.

## Israeli troops kill 2 more Arab teenagers and wound 15 others

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — At least two Palestinian teenagers were shot dead and 15 others wounded when Israeli soldiers opened fire on anti-occupation demonstrators on Tuesday, according to the Israeli army and sources quoted by news agencies.

In another day of continuing anti-Israeli protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, demonstrations were reported in Bethlehem, the Palestinian refugee camps around Jerusalem, and the towns of Qalqilya, Tul-karm and Ramallah. The two dead Palestinians, whom local residents identified as Ali Atef Dahlan, 18, and 15-year-old Ahmad Nabris, were killed when Israeli soldiers opened fire at demonstrators in the Khan Younis refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

Maher Nasser, a spokesman for the United Nations agency that administers refugee camps, said Israeli troops in four or five vehicles had entered Al Shati camp where demonstrations were

taking place. He said the sky was black from the smoke of burning tyres in the town of Khan Younis



A group of Palestinian boys on trial at an Israeli military court in Nablis

## British-Israeli row flares over Mellor's jab at occupation

LONDON (Agencies) — Condemnation of Israel by British Foreign Office Junior Minister of State David Mellor, who said conditions in the Jabalya refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip were an affront to civilised values, sparked a diplomatic row on Tuesday between the two countries.

The dispute, the main front-page news Tuesday in the Times of London and other British newspapers and the lead item in radio and television news bulletins, stemmed from remarks Mr. Mellor made after visiting the

Jabalya camp near Gaza City on Monday.

Mr. Mellor told a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reporter after touring the camp where 52,000 Palestinians live: "Conditions here are I think an affront to civilised values. It's appalling that a few miles up the coast (in Israel) there is prosperity and here there is misery on a scale that rivals anything anywhere in the world."

The British government shrugged off the Israeli anger over Mr. Mellor's remarks by saying that the criticisms were in line with

and that women set tyres alight in Rafah.

The Israeli military said five Israeli soldiers were injured in stone-throwing incidents, one in Khan Younis and four others in Rafah on the border with Egypt.

An Arab reporter who witnessed the demonstration told AP sporadic protests occurred in Khan Younis in the morning and about 5,000 Palestinians gathered in Amal Square in the town

(Continued on page 3)

## Rifai praises Iraqi armed forces for their heroic stand against Iran

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai praised the Iraqi armed forces Tuesday for their heroic stand in the face of Iran's aggression on Arab soil and paid tribute to the sacrifices that the Iraqis made in defence of Palestine, Jordan and Syria.



Mr. Rifai, in an interview with the Iraqi News Agency (INA) on the eve of the anniversary of the founding of the Iraqi armed forces, also said he was sending greetings from Jordan to the people and armed forces of Iraq.

Mr. Rifai said he was seizing the occasion to send greetings to and express pride in Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi armed forces, "which have maintained the highest morale and steadfastness and offered sacrifices in defence of Iraqi territory and the Arab Nation at large against Iran's aggression."

Mr. Rifai said the Iraqi people

and armed forces "have displayed rare courage in their defence of the Arab Nation throughout history in the face of external aggression."

Throughout history, he said, the Iraqi army has been offering sacrifices in defence of Palestine, Jordan and Syria and in striving

to maintain Arab identity and safeguarding Arab dignity.

"History books are abound with honourable Iraqi stands and the tombs of Iraqi martyrs stand as witness to Iraqi blood shed in defence of Arab soil," Mr. Rifai said. "The Iraqi army will continue to offer sacrifices in defence of the Arab Nation's dignity and honour and in repelling aggression directed on sacred Arab soil and will continue to be a source of pride for all Arabs," said the prime minister.

He said that the Iraqi army "is now involved in repelling aggression from the east as it did when the Arab Nation was threatened with aggression from the west."

The Iraqi heroes, he added, "had fought in defence of Al Aqsa Mosque in Palestine and defended Islamic soil in the face of the Zionist onslaught on the Holy Land."

## Syria intensifies Gulf mediation

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria is sending two top officials to Arab Gulf states in a new mediation bid to end the Iran-Iraq war, Arab and Western diplomatic sources said on Tuesday.

The sources said Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa were to leave within 24 hours.

"They will visit Kuwait and a number of other Gulf states within the framework of Syria's latest mediation efforts aimed at stopping the bloodshed in the Iran-Iraq conflict," one source said.

The sources, who asked not to be named, said Mr. Khaddam and Mr. Sharaa were expected to deliver messages from President Hafez Al Assad on Syria's latest contacts with Iran to leaders of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation

Council (GCC).

They said a major Syrian concern was to stop Iran staging a new offensive into Iraqi territory on the southern waterfront opposite Basra, Iraq's second city, following a massive mobilisation of Iranian troops.

One source said Western states would see Syrian mediation in the Gulf as a "positive step and a positive development of Syria's role in the region."

Syria's state television said on Monday a shuttle by Mr. Sharaa last month paid off by creating a positive atmosphere for talks between Iran and Arab Gulf states wanting an end to the seven-year-old war.

It said Mr. Sharaa had carried

(Continued on page 3)

## Carlucci says U.S. willing to discuss U.N. force for Gulf

KUWAIT (AP) — U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci said Tuesday the United States was prepared to study a Soviet proposal for an international naval fleet in the Gulf, but only after U.N. action to enforce a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war.

He also said he would make recommendations to President Ronald Reagan if he saw that a change is needed in the role of the U.S. naval task force now

(Continued on page 5)

## Cairo students stage anti-Israel rally

CAIRO (Agencies) — Riot police used batons and teargas on Tuesday to disperse students demonstrating against Israel's oppressive actions against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Police sources and witnesses quoted by news agencies said about 30 students, including at least two women, were arrested outside the campus of Cairo's Ain Shams university, where the demonstration began.

Reporters and photographers were barred from the campus, which normally is patrolled only by campus security men, but students alleged that plainclothes officers had entered.

In downtown Cairo, about 200 lawyers staged a peaceful anti-Israel, anti-American demonstra-

tion in the garden of the bar association headquarters. They burned a paper replica of the Israeli flag.

The protests were in a series of Cairo demonstrations against Israel that began in the middle of last week. Three security men were injured and 26 people arrested in a protest last Friday after noon Muslim prayers. All 26 have been freed on bail.

Witnesses quoted by AP said Tuesday's protest at 'Ain Shams began when about 500 students from the university's arts and law schools gathered on campus at mid-morning, shouting slogans condemning Israeli military measures against Palestinian protests in the occupied territories.

At least 24 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli gunfire

since Dec. 8. Israel's actions triggered a series of official condemnations from Egypt.

The witnesses, who spoke to AP on condition they not be identified, said the students demanded that relations with Israel be severed and that the Israeli ambassador to Cairo be expelled. Among leaders of the sloganising was Magda Al Sayed, a Palestinian woman enrolled at the university's law school.

After the campus protest, the demonstrators left the grounds and marched down the thoroughfare linking downtown Cairo with suburban Heliopolis, heading for nearby Abbassiya Square.

At an underpass leading onto the square, hundreds of riot

(Continued on page 3)

## U.S. mutes criticism of Israel's expulsion orders

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has muted its sharp criticism of Israel for plans to deport nine Palestinians and welcomed what it said was reduced violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The State Department last week expressed its strong opposition to deportation when Israel first said it might expel Palestinians deemed to be leaders of anti-occupation protests.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said on Monday: "Overall we've seen a general lessening of violence and that we welcome."

Asked to comment on Israeli plans to expel Palestinians accused of leading the protests, he emphasised, "there is a judicial appeal process that is apparently still involved in these cases."

Asked to comment specifically on Israel's announced plans to expel nine Palestinians, Redman would only say that "we've made our views known on that subject... Israeli leaders are well aware of our views."

He refused to say if Washington had asked the Israeli government to reconsider its deportation plans and also declined to say if the United States would accept any Palestinians expelled from Israel.

## PSP reinforces bases near ports in continuing stand-off with military

BEIRUT (R) — Militiamen of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) reinforced positions overlooking their blockaded ports in South Lebanon on Tuesday as diplomatic attempts began to end their week-old feud with the military over a helicopter.

Security sources said fighters of the mostly Druze PSP of Walid Junblatt strengthened artillery positions in the Shouf mountains southeast of Beirut and deployed armoured vehicles in the foothills.

The positions overlook PSP-controlled ports which have been blockaded since Saturday by forces loyal to President Amin Gemayel which are trying to

force the PSP to return an air force helicopter.

The French-made Gazelle helicopter gunship was flown to PSP territory by a deserting Druze air force officer who said the armed forces were biased in favour of Mr. Gemayel and Christian officers.

The confrontation between the 5,000-strong PSP militia and 15,000-strong Christian-dominated army heightened fears of a fresh round of bloodshed in Lebanon, torn by nearly 13 years of civil strife.

The PSP, in a statement published by newspapers on Tuesday, said the blockade was a declaration of war and said the

helicopter row should be given "its normal size in the framework of the search for a political solution."

It said the blockade was "planned and coordinated with the Israeli enemy as proved by the events of the last two days," a reference to Israeli raids in which 26 people were killed.

A military source dismissed this, saying: "It is natural that we are against any Israeli intervention in our country."

The PSP declared a retaliatory blockade of government- and rightist-controlled ports north of Beirut but has not been able to

(Continued on page 3)

## INSIDE

- West Germany begins trial of TWA suspect, page 2
- British Labour leader says party committed to Mideast conference, page 3
- Reagan unlikely to revive Mideast peace efforts, page 4
- Unlimited power cuts become a way of life in Lebanon, page 5
- Bulgaria to attend Seoul Olympics, page 6
- Fahd scraps reintroduced income tax, page 7
- Demonstrations reported in Tibet, page 8



## ARAB BANK LTD

(Established in Jerusalem, 1930)

Arab Bank is pleased to announce the opening of a new Branch at the Fifth Circle Region in Jabal Amman.

It is equipped to Carry out all Banking Operations and it will receive Customers as from Sunday 3.1.1988.

This new branch has an extended office in Mecca Street and another one in Suwayfiyyah.

ARAB BANK LTD.

The Fifth Circle Branch: Tel. Nos. 822901, 822902, 822903, Fax: No. 822905.

Mecca Street Office: Tel. No. 816524; Fax No. 816534;

Suwayfiyyah Office: Tel. No. 817146; Fax No. 817019.









# Unlimited power cuts become a way of life in Lebanon

By Diana Abdallah  
 Reuter

BEIRUT — Customers in the dark curse Musbah Natour, the Lebanese power company director whose name means "guardian of the lantern."

"Here comes Musbah's rationing again!" is the lament as lights go off, televisions fade, and heaters, cookers, washing-machines and telephones stop for daily power cuts lasting at least 12 hours.

For some, the cuts mean more than misery, cold and dark. Failure of the power supplies can kill. One 50-year-old man in the north who needed daily kidney dialysis at home died when power cuts for three days in November meant he could not get treatment.

Friends and family marched on Natour's company offices to stage a protest.

The emotional strain of the cuts shows daily in the faces of many, in the flood of tears from the middle-aged woman who broke down when the electricity, restored at her apartment block

in west Beirut after a 24-hour cut, went off again after five minutes. It also shows in comments that explode during discussions of the blackouts.

"We don't care for Natour's explanations. It is no use telling us he is doing his best... we cannot buy this talk any more," exclaimed one frustrated west Beirut restaurant owner.

When asked by Reuters how he felt about being reviled by thousands as head of Electricite du Liban, Natour said: "If people knew the conditions we are working under they would congratulate me."

"I don't have power in my house and rationing applies to me like all Lebanese," said 62-year-old Natour. "People should know that we are living in a state of war that has destroyed all the public sector."

High tension cables feeding Beirut have been cut to tatters in 12 years of civil war. Lebanon's main power stations have repeatedly been targeted by gunners keen to deprive the other side of power.

Then came an economic crisis

and the collapse of any central government, which encouraged many families either not to pay their electricity bills or to hook their homes up illegally to the nearest street lamp.

"A kilowatt of electricity costs about 30 (Lebanese) pounds (six U.S. cents) but the people are paying half a pound for a kilowatt," said Natour. "And only 40 per cent are paying their bills."

"That means that we are receiving one per cent of production costs, which all goes toward paying the salaries of the authority's employees and leaves no money for maintenance."

"This is why our generators and equipment stop working most of the time, plus the fact that we have no money to buy fuel, then garbage got into the cooling system and lightning knocked out the cables."

In 1987, the company paid about three billion Lebanese pounds (\$6.5 million) to repair damage, buy spares and fuel oil, and carry out minimum and most necessary maintenance.

The company's annual income

in cash terms was about 600 million pounds (\$1.3 million).

"If stability does not return to the country and unless money is guaranteed for the electricity authority to pay its bills, then rationing is going to become permanent," Natour warned.

The extent of the power grid's destruction widens weekly although Natour does not expect total collapse of the system.

Radio and television often lead news broadcasts with latest developments on electricity. Beirut's estimated one million people found the novelty of living in the dark wore off fast.

"Candle-lit dinners were always associated with romantic encounters but here they mean darkness and gloom," said Imad Khodr, a salesman.

Many Lebanese, already hard hit by inflation and the crash of the Lebanese pound, find they have no alternative but to go to bed early when the lights go out and temperatures drop.

In winter, the sun sets around 4.30 p.m. and does not reappear until 6.30 a.m. Temperatures

which can slump to zero in the hills can be down around six degrees Centigrade (42 Fahrenheit) in Beirut.

Doctors have reported a sharp increase in the number of pregnancies but cannot judge how many can be attributed to the power cuts, which have become longer and more common in the last three years.

For those who sit in the dark hour after hour, a favourite topic of gossip is speculating about who gains from the power shortage—in particular, agents selling portable generators.

Business sources said generators worth two billion pounds (\$4.4 million) were bought by Lebanese in the past three months at between 160,000 pounds (\$350) and 320,000 pounds (\$700) each.

One Beirut salesman said his profit from one month's sales of generators was about seven million pounds (\$15,000) though buyers have to hunt for scarce fuel to get them working.

Pavements in west Beirut's main shopping area, Hamra

Street, are littered with scores of generators producing a deafening noise and clouds of exhaust fumes as well as the power to allow businesses to open.

Most middle-class families cannot afford a generator for use in the home. And during cuts even the comfort of television goes, except for those who have car batteries to supply portable sets.

"The talk used to be about which best sellers were playing on television and the latest video films we saw, but now we are deprived even of this small pleasure," said Khodr.

Women complain rationing means they have to complete chores like laundry, cooking and ironing at odd hours, even as early as 2 a.m., while on warm days food turns rotten in refrigerators.

Unless one wants a cold shower or bath in the gloom, washing has to be timed to coincide with the neighbourhood having power.

Punctuated by the whine of a few generators, darkness envelops much of Beirut from the late afternoon until morning.

## U.S. willing to discuss U.N. force

(Continued from page 1)

guarding American-flagged vessels.

"If there are some changes that I think need to be made," I'll make the appropriate recommendations to the president," Mr. Carlucci told a news conference.

He had been asked if there would be any change in the U.S. navy's rules of engagement in the Gulf as a result of his visit.

"Our current programme is to escort and defend the U.S.-flag vessels," he told reporters gathered at the U.S. embassy.

He met earlier in the day with the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, and other senior officials.

Kuwait is the first leg of a tour which will take the secretary to Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. Plans to visit Oman were cancelled due to a tight schedule, according to the U.S. embassy in Muscat (See page 2).

Mr. Carlucci is to inspect the regional U.S. naval force of about 30 vessels. About 80 warships from Western countries and the Soviet Union have assembled as the menace of the war to Gulf shipping escalated in the past year.

Diplomats in the area suggested that Mr. Carlucci could return to Washington to recom-

mend expanding U.S. naval protection to cover at least vessels with U.S. interests, even if under foreign flags.

They also said Mr. Carlucci might discuss thinning the force if Iran showed signs of accepting a July 20 ceasefire demand by the U.N. Security Council.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said a reduction was expected because the U.S. naval force had "failed to minimise the attacks on ships, but has rather triggered such attacks."

The Soviet Union has suggested that a U.N. naval force replace U.S. and other foreign naval forces to protect shipping in the Gulf.

The Soviets said the idea was a parallel proposal to a U.S.-led campaign for an arms embargo against Iran if it persists in refusing to accept the ceasefire resolution.

Mr. Carlucci described as "a very vague and inappropriate at this stage" the Soviet proposal. He said all the efforts now should be focused on a follow-up resolution to enforce the ceasefire.

He said such a resolution should "impose sanctions on the party that has refused to implement Resolution 598, that is to say Iran."

"We are beginning to get some movement in that direction. We will hope that the Soviet Union would join in," he went on.



Glimpses of a lost world: the vastness of the Forbidden City; upper right, John Lone as the emperor; below Peter O'Toole as his tutor

## Bertolucci returns to glory with 'The Last Emperor'

By Richard Lormand  
 Reuter

NEW YORK — Italian director Bernardo Bertolucci, who created a sensation with "Last Tango in Paris" in 1972, has returned to the spotlight with "The Last Emperor."

Bertolucci's first film in six years, this epic treatment of modern China has been cited by virtually every U.S. critic as one of the year's best.

"There are two great loves in this movie — one for cinema and one for China," the 47-year-old director told Reuters.

"The Last Emperor" chronicles the life of Pu Yi, who ascended to the throne in imperial China in 1908 aged three, and died 59 years later, a humble gardener.

Made in English, it is the first Western feature film about China

made in the country itself since the communist revolution in 1949. And it is the first film ever shot in Peking's "Forbidden City," the ancient home of Pu Yi and other Chinese rulers.

"The Last Emperor" is an epic on the grandest scale, with some 19,000 Chinese extras and 9,000 costumes.

Bringing Pu Yi's autobiography, "From Emperor to Citizen," to the screen took over four years, \$25 million and a crew of Italian, British and Chinese technicians.

As the child emperor of the Manchu Dynasty, Pu Yi lived among concubines and eunuchs inside the Forbidden City until he was deposed in 1911, when the nationalists took over.

The adult Pu Yi lived the decadent life of a playboy and served as a puppet emperor for the Japanese in Manchuria in the late

1930s. He was sent to a Chinese prison in 1945 as the Japanese empire crumbled at the end of the World War II.

After nine years, he was "re-moulded" by the communists and worked as a gardener until his death in 1967.

Chinese-American John Lone, who starred in "Year of the Dragon," portrays Pu Yi from adolescence to his death. Peter O'Toole plays Pu Yi's Scottish tutor and Chinese actress Joan Chen portrays the emperor's wife.

The crowd scenes — shot by Oscar-winning cinematographer Vittorio Storaro — include the coronation of the child-emperor in the Hall of Supreme Harmony, Pu Yi's wedding and the expulsion of the eunuchs from court by the new republic's leaders.

"The movie is an epic," said Bertolucci, "but instead of being

about a hero, it is about an anti-hero."

"He is absolutely the opposite of a Western man, who normally goes from being a doorman to being general manager," added Bertolucci, whose "The Spider's Stratagem" and "The Conformist" also dealt with political and social upheaval.

But the director said he was certain that Western audiences would have no trouble relating to the "strange itinerary" of China's last emperor.

"When you see him as a baby, you identify with him," he said. "Everyone is an emperor at home as a child."

The screenplay had to be approved by China's Culture Ministry. The Chinese considered Pu Yi's story a morality tale, with the hero becoming freer as an ordinary citizen.

Bertolucci said the Chinese

government also gave its nod of approval to the completed film after special showings, but theatrical release in China itself is undecided.

Release there, he said, would be deeply satisfying.

Bertolucci's "1900," the 1977 four-hour Italian epic starring Robert de Niro, and 1979's "Luna," an erotic mother-and-son story starring Jill Clayburgh, were box-office disappointments.

These were followed by the unsuccessful "Tragedy of a Ridiculous Man" in 1981.

The lukewarm reception to those three films forced Bertolucci to look toward the East.

"I was so frustrated," he said. "I wanted to go far away."

Bertolucci believes he was allowed to film "The Last Emperor" in China because of the social and political liberalisation under Deng Xiaoping.

Bertolucci thinks there is not the capacity for change in his native Italy — which last February finally lifted its 11-year ban on "Last Tango," a frank portrayal of a relationship between a middle-aged man and a young woman.

That rigidity, he said, has hurt Italian cinema.

For his next film, Bertolucci is considering adaptations of Paul Bowles' novel, "The Sheltering Sky," the story of an American expatriate in Morocco after World War II, and Andre Malraux's "Man's Fate."

Malraux's 1933 novel, set during the 1927 Shanghai uprising, was his first choice before "The Last Emperor." The subject matter, however, touched too many political sores and the Chinese wouldn't give him permission to film it.



Product of  
 HOLY  
 LAND

The Grapes  
 of Holy Land  
 at their best



Reserve  
 ST. CATHERINE  
 Table Wine

## Cache of Byzantine coins found in Egypt hailed as greatest of its kind

By Mimi Mann  
 The Associated Press

CAIRO — Egypt announced Sunday the discovery of 820 gold coins buried 1,300 years ago under a monk's cell, a cache that Egypt's antiquities chief called the greatest find of its kind.

The coins date from the sixth and seventh centuries, the Byzantine period that bridged early Christianity with Islam.

They were buried in two small clay jars, one found broken, at Dair Al Abiad, a famous Coptic Christian monastery near Sohag, about 450 kilometres south of Cairo.

Officials of the Egyptian antiquities Organisation displayed the golden hoard Sunday on a table covered with green felt. Some were stacked against shards of the broken jar, and others were placed in neat rows beside the second jar.

"This is the greatest discovery of golden coinage in the history of Egyptian antiquities," said Ahmad Kadry, the organisation's chairman responsible for all Pharaonic, Coptic and Islamic archaeological work in Egypt. "These coins are priceless."

They're very important to the history of minting."

He said the coins, bearing likenesses of Byzantine emperors Justinian and Phocas, were minted in Constantinople. Justinian ruled for nine years in the early sixth century, Phocas for eight years almost a century later.

Kadry said the coins were found beneath a monk's cell during "systemic excavation" of the monastery in preparation for restoration work in progress.

One of Egypt's most traditional monasteries, Dair Al Abiad — the name means "white monastery" — was founded in the fourth century, during the early days of Egyptian monasticism.

Egypt's Coptic Church, founded by Saint Mark in A.D. 51, is considered the oldest Christian denomination. It gave the world the concept of monasticism, with communities of believers forming around monks and priests who isolated themselves in deserts as hermits.

Gawdat Gabra, director of Cairo's Coptic Museum, said 400 of the coins would go to his museum to begin a new collection. The rest will go to the Islamic Museum.

He said an Egyptian archaeological team found the stashed coins on Dec. 17 in a pit just west of the main monastery building. "The fact they were found at a monastery is special, and the fact they were buried in two Coptic jars makes it even more special," he said.

"This place was one of Egypt's most important institutions," Gabra told the Associated Press. "Architecturally it was different, because it resembled more a temple from the days of the pharaohs than a Christian monument. It had a big library, hospitals, many facilities serving 2,000 monks and 1,800 nuns."

Officials stressed that the discovery of the coins could lead to further information about two important but poorly documented eras of Egyptian antiquity, the early Christian and Byzantine periods.

"We don't have a great deal of information about this period," said Kadry.

"Perhaps these coins can shed light on our questions and we'll discover why they were buried in a monastery. How did they get there? We can only speculate why."

**RESTAURANT CHINA**

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Ahliah Girls School

Take away is available

Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.

6:30-Midnight

Tel. 638968

**慕堂餐廳**

**MANDARIN Chinese Restaurant**

The only typical Chinese cuisine in Amman.

Chinese Flaming pot is available

Take away available

Open daily 12:00-15:30

18:00-23:30

Wadi Saqra Road - near Traffic Bridge

Amman, Jordan

Tel: 661922

**CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT**

Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket

Mongolian Barbecue for Lunch Friday only

Tel: 818214

Come and taste our specialties

Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.

6:30-Midnight

**CHINESE RESTAURANT**

**TAIWAN TOURISMO**

Authentic Chinese Food

Korean Bar-B-Q

Charcoal Flaming Pot

Take-away service

Open daily Noon - 3:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. - midnight

Location: Near 3rd Circle opposite Akliah Hospital

Tel: 641093

**EVERY DAY**

PEOPLE WHO NEED

CLEANING SERVICES

CALL US!

**Electrolux**

P.O. Box 925229 AMMAN

Tel. 604671

The Ideal Residence for Expatriates & Businessmen

**DAROTEL** داروتيل

Tel: 668193 - Telex 23888 DAROTL - Fax 602434

Shmeisani - Amman

Luxuriously furnished studio apartments To Satisfy Good Taste

**HOTEL ★ APARTOTEL ★ RESTAURANT**

**CROWN INTERNATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT**

packing, shipping, forwarding, international moving, storage, clearing, door-to-door service

Agents all over the world

Tel: 664090, 660852

Tlx: 22265 RESICO JO

Cable: Husebesh

P.O. Box 526487

AMMAN JORDAN

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION

CALL

667171/6-670141/4

Ext. 223





